

THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
AMELIA HARCOURT
AND
LOUISA DARLINGTON.
VOL. II.

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OF

AMERICAN



LOUISA DARLINGTON.

V. O. L. II.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
AMELIA HARCOURT
AND
LOUISA DARLINGTON.

— LOUISA “ never told her Love ;
“ But let Concealment, like a Worm i’ th’ Bud,
“ Feed on her damask Cheek : She pin’d in
“ Thought ;
“ And, with a green and yellow Melancholy,
“ She sat, like Patience on a Monument,
“ Smiling at Grief.”

SHAKESPEAR.

In TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.

L O N D O N :

Printed for H. GARDNER, opposite
St. CLEMENT’s Church, in the STRAND ;
C. PARKER, in NEW BOND-STREET ;

A N D

J. BEW, in PATER-NOSTER-ROW.

M.DCC.LXXVII.

THE
HISTORY
OF
AMERICA
AND
JOURNAL OF DARLINGTON.



SHAKESPEARE
IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.

LONDON:
Printed by J. G. & J. H. GARDNER, opposite
the Theatre Royal, in the Strand;
and by J. B. L. in New Bond Street;
J. B. L. in Pall Mall.
MILKIN.

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THE
H I S T O R Y
O F
AMELIA HARCOURT, &c.

C H A P. XV.

Lord F's. Scheme. He visits Mr. Harcourt again. His Proposal to Mrs. Selwin. That Lady rejects it, and gives his Lordship some prudent Advice.

AMONG the Number of Lord F's Companions, there was one named *Martin Jolly*. This Man had spent a good Estate in Riot and Debauchery, and now liv'd by the Favour of Rakes and Spendthrifts. He was one they call'd a jovial Fellow, because he would drink, sing, ap-
Vol. II. B plaud

plaud their Vices, and promote their scandalous Intrigues, by the basest Actions, and without Remorse.

Mr. Jolly, hearing Lord F. was in *London*, went to pay him a Visit. He was rejoic'd to see him at this Time, as he thought he might be of Use to him, in his Design on *Louisa*.
 " Oh! Jolly!" said his Lordship,
 " I have been extremely fortunate at
 " *Bath*, for I have seen the most beautiful Creature that ever existed.
 " Her Charms beggar all Description,
 " and the Possession of her will make
 " me the happiest of Mortals. Her
 " Name is *Louisa Darlington*, and she
 " lives in *Oxfordshire*. I must desire
 " you to go there, and get an Account
 " of her Family and Fortune——
 " Here is a Direction. I need not bid
 " you be cautious, for no Man knows,
 " with more Address, how to proceed
 " in

“ in an Affair of this Nature. Take
 “ my Purse——use it freely——but
 “ get me good Intelligence, and let
 “ me know your Success as soon as
 “ possible, for I die with Impatience
 “ to throw myself at her Feet.”

Lord *F.* having furnish'd Mr. *Jolly* with a Horse, and proper Instructions, he set out early the next Morning for *Oxfordshire*, and arriv'd there in the Evening. He put up at an Inn about a Mile distant from Mr. *Harcourt's* to avoid Suspicion; order'd a good Supper, and drank freely. He invited the Landlord to sup with him, and enquir'd what News was stirring in the Country.

Next Morning, when he had Breakfasted, he order'd his Horse to be got ready, and desir'd the Landlord to have a Fowl roasted for his Dinner by Two o'Clock. He rode towards Mr.

Harcourt's, to take a View of his House and Garden, and to endeavour to get some Account of his Family. He survey'd them with great Attention; but, as he could see no Person who was likely to give him the Information he wanted, he return'd to the Inn.

When the Fowl was ready, he desir'd the Landlord would dine with him. He call'd for Wine, talk'd to his Host about the Pleasantry of his Situation, and told him he liv'd in a genteel Neighbourhood. "I imagine," says he, "you have very good Business here, for there is a great Number of Gentry around you." The Inn-keeper reply'd, he had no Cause to complain.

"There are two large Houses," said Mr. *Jolly*, "about a Mile off, that have delightful Prospects. The Gardens are spacious, and laid out
"in

“ in a fine Taste ; one, I am inform’d,
 “ belongs to a Gentleman, whose
 “ Name is *Bartlett*——Pray, can you
 “ tell me, who lives in the other ?”
 “ The other is Mr. *Harcourt*’s, Sir,”
 reply’d the Landlord, “ and they are
 “ Relations, for Mr. *Bartlett*’s Son
 “ married the other Gentleman’s
 “ Daughter. Both the Families are
 “ greatly belov’d, for they do Abun-
 “ dance of good to poor People.”

Mr. *Jolly* said, he was glad to hear
 that——but made no farther Enquiry,
 at that Time. After they had din’d,
 he said he would take a Ride, and re-
 turn there to sup. He paid liberally
 for what he had, in order to ingratiate
 himself into the Landlord’s Favour,
 and to get from him the Intelligence
 he wanted, for he found he was no
 Stranger to Mr. *Harcourt*’s Family.

In the Evening he return'd to his Inn, and order'd a Couple of Rabbits to be roasted for Supper. When they were ready, he desir'd the Inn-keeper would sup with him; because, he said, it was disagreeable to him to eat alone. As soon as the Cloth was remov'd, he drank Mr. *Bartlett's* Health; and the Landlord did the same, with a hearty good Will. They then drank Mr. *Harcourt's*, and the Glass mov'd pretty freely.

When they had emptied a Couple of Bottles, Mr. *Jolly* call'd for the third, and then enquir'd concerning the State of Mr. *Harcourt's* Family. The Landlord inform'd him, that Mr. *Harcourt* had no Child, but the young Lady who was married to the younger Mr. *Bartlett*. That his Family consisted of himself, his Lady, his Daughter, his Son-in-Law, and their four Children.

That

That Mrs. *Selwin*, his Lady's Sister, who liv'd somewhere in *London*, often visited there, and always brought with her a young Lady, whose Name was *Louisa*, and who was thought to be a Dependent on her, but he was unacquainted with her Family. He added, that *Louisa* was the most beautiful Lady he had ever seen, and that several of the young Gentlemen in the Neighbourhood were desperately in Love with her.

To prevent the Inn-keeper's having any Suspicion of his Design, Mr. *Jolly* made some other slight Enquiries; to all which he receiv'd satisfactory Answers, for his Host was perfectly acquainted with the Persons and Characters of many of his Neighbours. The third Bottle being empty, he retir'd to Rest—greatly pleas'd with his Success, and to think that his Journey

would fully answer his Lordship's Expectation.

Mr. *Jolly* continu'd another Day at his Inn. The following Morning, after Breakfast, he took Leave of the Landlord; and told him, he was going to see the two Universities, and some other Places of Note, before he return'd to *London*——but whenever he came that Road, he was so well satisfied with his Entertainment, he would certainly put up at his House. His Host thank'd him, and wish'd him a good Journey.

At first setting ont, he rode towards *Oxford*; but soon turn'd into the High-Road for *London*, where he arriv'd that Night. Lord *F.* receiv'd him with great Joy; and eagerly enquir'd, whether he had brought good News?

“ I hope,” reply'd Mr. *Jolly*, “ my Journey will answer your Lordship's
“ Ex-

“ Expectation, for I have been indefatigable in this Affair.” He then acquainted him with the State of Mr. *Harcourt's* Family—— that Mrs. *Selwin* was Mrs. *Harcourt's* Sister, and had a House in *London*; that she was a Widow, and had no Child; that *Louisa* was thought to be a Dependent on Mrs *Selwin*, as her Parents were absolutely unknown in the Neighbourhood; that several *Oxfordshire* Gentlemen paid their Addresses to her; and that both Mrs. *Selwin* and *Louisa* were now at Mr. *Harcourt's*.

“ Why, it is not unlikely,” said Lord F. “ if Mrs. *Selwin* is a Widow and “ has no Child, but she may be a “ Dependent on that Lady. Perhaps “ the Orphan of some of her Acquaintance. If so, I have thought of a “ Scheme that will soon bring this “ Affair to a Conclusion, and make
“ me

“ me happy in the Possession of the
 “ adorable *Louisa*.” This he commu-
 nicated to his Companion, who assur’d
 him there was no Doubt of its Suc-
 cess. His Lordship was highly pleas’d
 with Mr. *Jolly*’s Information——The
 Lady was their Toast, and they ply’d
 the Glass pretty freely.

Lord *F.* having laid a very artful
 Scheme for the Ruin of *Louisa*, set out
 early the next Morning for *Oxfordshire*
 in his Coach and Six. His Lordship
 had been particularly nice in the
 Fancy of his Dress, imagining his
 splendid Appearance would make an
 Impression on that young Lady’s
 Heart. He arriv’d at Mr. *Harcourt*’s
 a little before Dinner, and met with a
 genteel Reception.

During Dinner, his Lordship be-
 stow’d many Encomiums on the Order
 and OEconomy of the Family; and

on

on the Ease, Elegance, and Good-nature of the Ladies and Gentlemen, with whom he was so happy as to sit at Table. He beheld *Louisa* with Admiration; but, that his base Design might not be suspected, he paid no particular Compliments to that Lady.

When the Cloth was remov'd, *Amelia* and *Louisa* withdrew. *Charles* begg'd his Lordship would excuse his abrupt Departure, as he had something of Consequence that call'd him some Miles from Home. His Lordship desir'd he would use no Ceremony, and wish'd him a pleasant Ride.

As the Weather was extremely fine, Mr. *Harcourt* propos'd a Walk in the Garden. His Lordship said nothing could be more agreeable to him, as he was charm'd with that delightful Spot; and that Gentleman, his Lady, and Mrs. *Selwin* accompany'd him thither.

thither. He was in Hopes of seeing *Louisa*, but she had retir'd with *Amelia* to the Nursery.

When they had taken a few Turns, they sat down in an Alcove ; and Lord *F.* addressing himself to Mrs. *Selwin*, said, “ I will entreat the Favour of
 “ your Patience, Madam, for a short
 “ Time ; as I have a Proposal to make,
 “ which I hope will not be thought
 “ disagreeable. I shall make this
 “ Offer with the greater Pleasure, in
 “ the Presence of this worthy Lady
 “ and Gentleman,” bowing to Mr. and Mrs. *Harcourt*, “ that they also
 “ may be Judges of the Sincerity of
 “ my Heart.

“ You have taken, Madam, if I am
 “ not misinform'd, the beautiful *Louisa*
 “ under your Protection, which is be-
 “ coming the Character of so excellent
 “ a Lady. As her Beauty and Merit
 “ entitle

“ entitle her to universal Esteem, you
 “ will permit me to be rank’d among
 “ the Number of her Admirers ; and,
 “ as it is natural for us to endeavour
 “ to promote the Happiness of those
 “ we love—I will, with your Per-
 “ mission, Madam, as an Addition to
 “ her Fortune, settle on her Five
 “ Hundred Pounds *per Annum* for
 “ Life. To shew my Disinterested-
 “ ness on this Occasion, I desire she
 “ may still remain under your Protec-
 “ tion, ’till an Event may happen that
 “ shall unite us for Life.

“ My Father, I am sorry to say it,
 “ Madam, is so excessively fond of Ti-
 “ tles, that I am convinc’d he will never
 “ give his Consent to my Alliance with
 “ any Person, though the most amia-
 “ ble on Earth, whose Family were not
 “ possess’d of them ; but, as he is far
 “ advanc’d in Years, and very infirm,
 “ his

“ his Continuance here can be of but
 “ short Duration. Far be it from me
 “ to desire the Death of my Father—
 “ I only mention these Things to con-
 “ vince you of the Sincerity of my
 “ Intentions, and to assure you it is not
 “ in my Power, at present, to make
 “ the adorable *Louisa* as happy as I
 “ could wish.”

“ Your Proposal, my Lord,” re-
 ply’d Mrs. Selwin, “ seems disinterested
 “ and generous; and we are greatly
 “ oblig’d to you, on that Account.
 “ If your Lordship has been inform’d
 “ that *Louisa* is a Dependent on me,
 “ I assure you the Report is without
 “ the least Foundation—for she
 “ comes of as worthy a Family as most
 “ in *England*. Her Parents and Re-
 “ lations, though possess’d of no Titles,
 “ can and will give her twice the Sum
 “ you generously offer to settle on
 “ her;

" her; therefore hope you will not
 " take it ill, that your Proposal will
 " not be accepted, as her Fortune is
 " amply sufficient for her Situation in
 " Life.

" Though several Gentlemen, some
 " of them possess'd both of Fortune and
 " Merit, have paid their Addresses to
 " *Louisa*, neither her Parents or Friends
 " have interested themselves in Favour
 " of any particular Person, being de-
 " termined to let her chuse freely the
 " Man she loves; as they are con-
 " vinc'd, from her known Prudence
 " and good Sense, that she will love
 " the Man she chuses.

" I have only a few Words to add,
 " my Lord, which I hope will deserve
 " your serious Attention. As you
 " have seen but little of *Louisa*, your
 " Love for her will easily be sur-
 " mounted, Absence will soon obli-

" terate

“terate her Idea from your Mind—
 “and the Sight of some other Beauty,
 “who may have the Advantage of Birth
 “and Titles, inspire you with a Passion
 “that may be consistent with your
 “Dignity, and agreeable to the Sen-
 “timents of your Honourable Father :
 “Therefore, as you value his Bless-
 “ing——his Life——and your own
 “Happiness——pay a due Regard
 “to his Grace’s Authority, and let
 “your Lordship’s Choice have the
 “Sanction of his Approbation.”

His Lordship was greatly chagrin’d
 to find his Scheme frustrated; but,
 in order to cover his Confusion, which
 nevertheless was very visible, he said,
 “Madam, I am oblig’d to you for
 “your Advice, and will endeavour to
 “profit by it. As you recommend
 “Absence from the beloved Object,
 “I will take a Tour through *France*
 “and

“ and *Italy*; and see if I can recover
 “ that Tranquility in a foreign Coun-
 “ try, which I have lost in my own.”
 The Company approv’d of his Lord-
 ship’s Intention to travel, and hop’d it
 would be attended with the wish’d-for
 Success.

Mr. *Harcourt* invited his Lordship
 to stay Tea; but he declin’d it, say-
 ing, “ Flight, my good Sir, is my only
 “ Remedy. I intend to lie this Night
 “ in *Oxford*, the next in *London*, and
 “ the following Day to set out for
 “ *France*.” His Lordship then or-
 der’d his Carriage, and took a confus’d
 Leave of the Company, who were not
 displeas’d at his Departure.

C H A P. XVI.

*Doubts concerning Lord F's. Proposal.
Mrs. Selwin's Care of Louisa's Edu-
cation. Amiable Behaviour and Qua-
lifications of that young Lady.*

AMELIA and Louisa continu'd in the Nursery, during his Lordship's Conversation with their Friends in the Garden. After his Departure, they came down to Tea. Mrs. Selwin acquainted them with his Proposal, her refusing to accept it, and with his Intention to travel; but mention'd nothing of Louisa's Parents; or intended Fortune. She added, that she suspected, notwithstanding his seeming Generosity and Disinterestedness, that his Design was not honourable. Amelia thought the same, and they were all

all glad to hear his Lordship was going to leave the Kingdom, as his Absence would free them from any farther Apprehensions on his Account.

Charles had left Lord *F.* at Mr. *Harcourt's* in order to visit Mr. *Eggleston*, and to give him an Invitation to dine there the next Day. At his Return, he was inform'd of what had pass'd in the Garden, and was greatly pleas'd to hear his Lordship intended to go Abroad; for, it was also his Opinion, that all his specious Pretences were only to cast a Veil over the Machinations of a bad Heart.

Mr. *Eggleston* din'd at Mr. *Harcourt's* the next Day; and, after Dinner, the Ladies ask'd if it would be agreeable to the Gentlemen to take an Airing? They said it would give them great Pleasure, as the Weather continu'd extremely fine. The Coach was order'd

to be got ready, the four Ladies went into it, and the three Gentlemen mounted their Horses. They took a little Journey, which prov'd quite agreeable, and return'd to Tea.

As the Company seem'd highly pleas'd with their Airing, Mr. *Harcourt* observ'd, that Travelling was certainly of great Utility; for it contributed to our Pleasure, our Improvement, and our Health. "It would therefore be extremely agreeable to me," said Mr. *Eggleston*, addressing himself to the Ladies and Gentlemen, "to go little Journeys, in the Company of such amiable and worthy Friends; sometimes to one Part of *England*, and sometimes to another. These would enable me to speak of the Curiosities of my own Country, not merely from Reading and Hearsay, but from ocular Demonstration; and

“ and would leave a more durable
 “ Impression on my Mind, than it
 “ could receive either from a written
 “ or a verbal Relation.”

The Ladies said such little Journeys, as Mr. *Eggleston* mention'd, would give them great Pleasure—the Gentlemen said the same—So they agreed to take an Excursion, as soon as a convenient Opportunity offer'd.

Just as they were come to this Resolution, Mr. *Harrington* and his Son came to pay them a Visit. “ My dear
 “ Friends,” said Mr. *Harcourt*, “ you
 “ have been a long Time absent; but
 “ I am heartily glad to see you, and
 “ hope your Relations in *Berkshire* are
 “ well.” “ I thank you, Sir,” reply'd
 Mr. *Harrington*, “ I left them well this
 “ Morning. It was Six this Evening
 “ when we got Home; so we have
 “ only taken a little Refreshment,

“ before we came to pay our Respects,
 “ and to enquire after your Welfare.
 “ Mrs. *Harrington* and *Henrietta* are
 “ a little fatigued with their Journey,
 “ but they will give themselves the
 “ Pleasure to wait on you To-mor-
 “ row.” “ Then I hope, Sir,” said
 Mr. *Harcourt*, “ you will favour us
 “ with your Company to Dinner; for
 “ we intend to keep Mr. *Eggleston*
 “ with us, and to pass the Day cheer-
 “ fully.” Mr. *Harrington* and *Fre-*
derick bow’d their Assent, took Leave,
 and return’d Home.

Mrs. *Harcourt*, observing Mr. *Eg-*
gleston sat rather thoughtful, desir’d
Louisa would be so obliging, as to en-
 tertain the Company with one of her
 favourite Pieces on the Harpsichord.
 The young Lady rose immediately;
 and, without farther Intreaty, play’d
 one of *Scarletti*’s, with inimitable
 Grace.

Grace. The Ladies and Gentlemen highly applauded the Performance; after which, at their Request, she sung several celebrated Airs, and accompany'd them with that Instrument, which were listen'd to with inexpressible Delight.

Mr. *Eggleston* rose betimes the next Morning; and, soon after, went into the Garden. He was agreeably surpriz'd to see Mrs. *Selwin* and *Louisa* in the *Temple of FLORA*. He paid them the usual Compliments, and offer'd to withdraw—but Mrs. *Selwin* desir'd they might enjoy the Pleasure of his Company. “I am extremely
 “happy, Madam,” said Mr. *Eggleston*,
 “in receiving this Token of your
 “Favour; and hope nothing has hap-
 “pen'd to disturb your Repose, be-
 “cause few Ladies are Abroad so
 “early.” “We esteem ourselves

“greatly oblig’d to you, Sir,” reply’d Mrs. *Sekwin*, “for this kind Concern
 “for our Welfare. We have met
 “with nothing disagreeable; nor is it
 “unusual for us to walk out so soon,
 “for we generally rise before Six in
 “Summer.

“By this Means we have two or
 “three Hours to spare, before Break-
 “fast; which we usually employ in
 “reading some good Author, or in
 “contemplating on the Beauties of
 “the Creation, and adoring the graci-
 “ous and bounteous Giver of every
 “good Gift; who has made such am-
 “ple Provision for the Pleasure, the
 “Convenience, and the Necessity of
 “his Creatures. Almost every Thing
 “we see affords us a Lesson; and, if
 “we make no Improvement, the Fault
 “is

" is in ourselves. For, as *Shakespear*
" says, we may

" Find Tongues in Trees, Books in the run-
" ning Brooks,
" Sermons in Stones, and Good in every
" Thing."

" It would be happy, Madam," said
Mr. *Eggleston*, " for the rising Genera-
" tion, if all those who had the Care of
" Youth were possess'd of such a Train
" of Thinking—we should then see
" a great and desirable Alteration in
" Manners and Behaviour. Instead
" of *Killing of Time* in Dress and Diffi-
" pation, and squandering away Es-
" tates in Folly and Wantonness, the
" Superfluities of both would be spent
" in the noblest and most rational of
" all Employments—Thankfulness
" and Charity."

On

On Mr. *Harcourt's* Approach, the Conversation became general; and, by the Time they had taken a few Turns, and made some Observations on the delightful Harmony of Birds, the great Variety and Beauty of Flowers, and the Industry, Economy, and Utility of Bees, a Servant came to inform them that Breakfast was ready.

After Breakfast, the Gentlemen took an Airing, and the Ladies retir'd to Dress. Mr. *Harrington*, Mr. *Bartlett*, and their Families, came to Dinner. The Table was plentifully cover'd—And Pleasantry, Good-nature and Politeness, gave a Relish to the Entertainment.

In order to preserve the Chearfulness of the Company, Mr. *Harcourt* propos'd their having a Concert. His Lady rose immediately, and went to the Harpsichord; the Gentlemen took
different

different Instruments——and they perform'd a favourite Concerto of *Geminiani's*.

As they play'd several celebrated Pieces of Musick, the Ladies went alternately to the Harpsichord, and the Performance of each was justly admir'd. When it was *Louisa's* Turn to perform, she went to the Instrument with a bespeaking Affability. The Eighth Concerto of *Corelli*, at the Request of Mr. *Eggleston*, was agreed to be the Piece. Though there were many others, particularly some of *Scarletti's*, that show the Excellence of a fine Hand to greater Advantage, yet she perform'd this with inimitable Skill. Her Fingers flew over the Key with amazing Swiftnes, and she added so many Graces in her Performance, that every one was charm'd with the Elegance of her Taste. She receiv'd the Applause of the Company

pany with a becoming Modesty, and retir'd to her Seat with such Ease and Complacency, that she attracted both the Attention and Admiration of all that were present.

Several favourite *Airs* were sung by the Ladies, accompany'd by the Instruments ; and, after the Concert, was a Ball. The Day was spent with great Chearfulness and Cordiality, and it was late when the Company took Leave. As Mr. *Eggleston's* House was at some Distance, he stay'd at Mr. *Harcourt's* ; and retir'd to his Chamber, contemplating on the Beauty and Accomplishments of the amiable *Louisa*. He had been remarkably chearful the whole Day ; and his Behaviour so affable, easy and polite, that it had procur'd him a general Esteem — But *Louisa's* Feelings, on this Occa-

Occasion, were of a more tender Nature.

C H A P. XVII.

Ill Success of Lord F's. new Scheme. He sets out for France. Mrs. Selwin's Suspicion and prudent Conduct.

ON Lord F's. Arrival in London, he sent for Mr. Jolly. When he came, he said, "Oh! Jolly! My Scheme is blown up——You have had a wrong Information, with regard to *Louisa*. She is not a Dependent on Mrs. *Selwin*; but is a Fortune, at least, of Twenty Thousand Pounds." "Why then, my Lord," reply'd Jolly, "don't you make your Addresses in an honourable Manner?" "Because," said his Lordship, "I can't do that now; for, de-
" pending

“ pending on the Account you brought
 “ me, I offer’d to settle Five Hundred
 “ Pounds *per Annum* on her for Life,
 “ to let her remain under the Protec-
 “ tion of Mrs. *Selwin*, and to marry
 “ her on the Death of my Father;
 “ who, I told the old Lady, would
 “ never consent to my Union with the
 “ most amiable Person on Earth, un-
 “ less she was possess’d of a Title——
 “ For I intended, if the Settlement
 “ had been accepted, to have got her
 “ into my own Power, and enjoy’d
 “ her without that Ceremony.”

“ I know,” reply’d Mr. *Jolly*, “ that
 “ was your Lordship’s Intention, and
 “ am sorry I was misinform’d——But
 “ what is to be done now ?” Why,”
 answer’d Lord *F.* “ I have another
 “ Scheme, which may in all Probabi-
 “ lity succeed. I have survey’d Mr.
 “ *Harcourt*’s Garden with great Atten-
 “ tion,

" tion, and there is one Part of it
 " which lies open to the High-Road.
 " Mrs. *Selwin* and *Louisa*, and some-
 " times *Louisa* only, as I am inform'd,
 " walk there in an Evening——Don't
 " you think it possible to seize the
 " young Lady there, force her into a
 " Post-Chaise, and bring her to a lone
 " House, which I will shew you, and
 " which is only a few Miles from Mr.
 " *Harcourt's*? I will wait there to re-
 " ceive her——will release you, and
 " those you engage to assist you in our
 " Design, and take her entirely into
 " my own Possession."

" There is not only Difficulty, but
 " Danger, my Lord," said *Jolly*, " in
 " the Execution of this Project. If
 " *Louisa* is possess'd of so large a For-
 " tune, her Friends must be very
 " powerful, and will punish me severe-
 " ly,

“ ly, if I should happen to be discovered.”

“ I will take Care to protect you,”
 reply'd Lord F. “ and will give you
 “ Five Hundred Pounds, if you succeed. Take my Purse, and procure those you can trust in such an
 “ Affair, but keep them as ignorant
 “ of our Design as you possibly can.”

Though Mr. Jolly had no Inclination to this Business, yet the Promise of his Lordship's Protection, and the Hopes of the Reward, made him engage in it. He had no Scruple from Conscience, but was afraid of the Punishment he was liable to, from a Discovery. He took the Purse, and went in Search of some Wretches to assist him, who would do any Thing for Money. When he had procur'd them, he was to inform his Lordship, and
 they

they were to put the Design into Execution as soon as possible.

It was several Days before Mr. *Jolly* could meet with two Persons fit for his Purpose. They were to be well paid, and promis'd to do their Business effectually. He acquainted his Lordship with his Proceedings, and they agreed to meet the next Night in *Hyde-Park*, and to set off directly for the lone House in *Oxfordshire*, that he might know where to bring *Louisa* to him.

His Lordship went Incog. to the Place appointed, where *Jolly* was waiting for him. They travell'd all Night, and got to the House the next Morning, which was kept by a Dependent on Lord *F.* and where he had plac'd one of his Mistresses.

The next Morning, Mr. *Jolly* set off for *London*, and was to return with

his Companions the following Day. He hir'd a Post-Chaise, and told the Owner he should not want a Driver ; because it was for a timorous Gentleman, and he would never ride in any, but what was drove by his own Servant. He said it would be wanted for some Time, left Twenty Guineas in Hand, and order'd it to be brought to *Hyde-Park* the next Day, by One o'Clock, where the Gentleman and his Servant would be ready to receive it.

He had artfully equipt his Companions for this Expedition ; the one like a plain Country Gentleman, the other like the Driver of a Post-Chaise. The Carriage came at the appointed Time ; they were soon ready, and *Jolly* rode before them, on one of his Lordship's Horses. It had been dark some Time, before they got to their Journey's End ; and Lord *F.* entertain'd them
in

in a plain Manner, and treated them with great Freedom, to prevent any Suspicion of his being a Person of Distinction.

They had rode by Mr. *Harcourt's* Garden several Evenings, without seeing any Person in it; at length Mr. *Jolly* saw two Women, which, by their different Ages, he took to be Mrs. *Selwin* and *Louisa*. He made the Signal for the Post-Chaise to stop, and threw himself off the Horse, as though he had fell by Accident. The Driver apply'd to the Ladies for Assistance, as his Master, he said, must be greatly hurt, and was then speechless.

The youngest unlock'd the Garden Door, and ran to condole with, as she suppos'd, the unfortunate Gentleman; and the other went to the House, for something to recover him.

D 2

Thinking

Thinking this was *Louisa*, they seiz'd her immediately ; but before they could stop her Mouth, and get her into the Chaise, she gave several loud Shrieks which alarm'd Mr. *Harcourt's* Servants. They ran to the Relief of the Person in Distress, and endeavour'd to take her from the Villains ; but they had certainly carried her off, had not two Men on Horseback rode up to their Assistance.

After a short Scuffle, they got her out of the Chaise, and ply'd their Whips very smartly on *Jolly* and the Driver ; who, finding they were over-power'd, made their Escape in the best Manner they could. The Girl was so exceedingly terrify'd that she fell into a Fit, which prevented her Deliverers from pursuing the Villains ; otherwise, in all Probability, they had been taken. At length, by the Use of proper Means, she

she recover'd, and related the Artifice they made use of to entice her from the Garden.

On *Jolly's* Arrival, he related the Adventure to his Lordship in private, who bestow'd many Execrations on those who had frustrated his Scheme—for he concluded the Person they had seiz'd, was no other than *Louisa*.

As he imagin'd this Affair would be attended with some Enquiry, he set out early the next Morning for *London*. He dismiss'd *Jolly* with a Present, and ordered him to reward his Companions, lest they should discover the Person who engag'd them in so iniquitous an Enterprize. In a few Days he set out for *France*; and order'd his Servants to inform all those who enquir'd after him, that he was in that Kingdom.

The two Persons, which Mr. *Jolly* took for Mrs. *Selwin* and *Louisa*, were Mrs. *Harcourt's* House-keeper and *Amelia's* Maid. Mr. *Harcourt*, and several of his Friends, had taken a Tour through *Gloucestershire*, and were expected Home that Evening; and they were walking in the Garden, to see them pass by. The two Men on Horseback, who came so fortunately to the young Woman's Assistance, were that Gentleman's Servants, and rode before to acquaint the House-keeper that the Family were coming, and would be there that Night.

By the Time the necessary Preparations were made for their Reception, Mr. *Harcourt* and his Friends arriv'd. Mr. *Bartlett*, Mr. *Harrington*, and their Families, stay'd Supper; after which, being rather fatigued with their Journey, they took Leave.

It

It being late, Mr. *Eggleston* tarried at Mr. *Harcourt's*——and the Company retir'd to their several Apartments.

Next Morning the House-keeper acquainted Mrs. *Harcourt*, with the Attempt to carry off *Amelia's* Maid; and the Fright they had been in, on that Account. That Lady took an Opportunity to inform Mrs. *Selwin* and *Amelia* of it. They had some Thoughts of its being a Scheme of Lord *F's*; but as they could not recollect that his Lordship had ever seen the Girl in his Visits to the Family, the Whole appear'd to them very mysterious.

Mrs. *Selwin* desir'd the House-keeper might be call'd. She now gave a more particular Account of all that happen'd; and added, that the Girl had certainly been carried off, if *John*

and *William* had not rode up at that Instant.

When the House-keeper was gone, and they had consider'd this Affair maturely, they had a shrewd Suspicion that his Lordship had projected this Scheme, in order to get *Louisa* into his Possession; but that the Villains he had employ'd in this base Design, by mistaking the Persons, had seiz'd the Girl, instead of that young Lady.

As they had no certain Proof of his Lordship's Baseness, they determined to keep this Affair as private as possible; and to make slight of it, if any Enquiries should be made concerning it, lest it should involve any of their Family in a Quarrel with Lord *F.* Mrs. *Selwin* therefore took an Opportunity to reward the Servants for their gallant Behaviour, and desir'd they would take no Notice of what had hap-

happen'd the fore-going Night, as it might be injurious to the young Woman's Character.

C H A P. XVIII.

Mr. Eggleston's Love for Louisa increases. The uncertain Situation of that young Lady greatly distresses her. Mr. Harcourt and his Friends go to Widow Jones's.

MR. Eggleston's Passion for Louisa increas'd every Day. In their late Tour through Gloucestershire he had frequent Opportunities of being in her Company, and he imagin'd he discover'd new Charms, either in Person or Mind, every Time he beheld her. He listen'd to her Observations on Persons and Things with inexpressible Delight, as they display'd great Affability

Affability and a fine Discernment——
and he admir'd her easy and graceful
Behaviour. Often, when alone, would
he revolve in his Mind, the following
Lines in *Rowe's Fair Penitent* ;

“ Is she not more than Painting can express,
“ Or youthful Poets fancy, when they love?”

Though Mr. *Eggleston* was possess'd
of an ample Fortune, and of all the
Accomplishments which distinguish
the Gentleman ; yet he had so high
an Opinion of the Beauty and Merit
of *Louisa*, as to esteem neither his Es-
tate or Person worthy her Acceptance.
He was never happy, but when he
enjoy'd her Company ; depriv'd of
that, he grew pensive, sought Retire-
ment, and indulg'd a Passion which
destroy'd his Peace.

Louisa's Situation was much the
same. Mr. *Eggleston's* Good-nature,
Gene-

Generosity and Politeness, had made a strong Impression on her Mind; but when she reflected that his Fortune was large, and his Heart might be prepossess'd in Favour of some happier Fair, all Hopes of an Union, with the only Man on Earth that she could really love, forsook her, and she abandon'd herself to Loneliness and Grief.

Another afflicting Circumstance to *Louisa*, was the Uncertainty of her Birth and Fortune. She look'd upon herself as a Dependent on Mrs. *Selwin*, and that all she receiv'd flow'd from her Bounty. Her Parents and Relations, if she had such dear Friends living, were entirely unknown to her—and her Hopes and Fears involv'd her in great Perplexity.

One Morning as *Louisa* was sitting in a pensive Attitude, and revolving in her Mind the Precariousness of her
Situ-

Situation, Mrs. *Selwin* enter'd her Chamber. She was in so profound a Reverie, that she neither heard or saw that Lady, who beheld her for awhile with the most endearing Tendernefs; at length going towards her, she gently tap'd her Arm, and said, "My dear *Louisa*, you alarm me! What can
 " be the Meaning of that thoughtful
 " Posture, and that uncommon Ab-
 " sence of Mind?"

" Dearly-beloved and much-ho-
 " nour'd Lady," reply'd *Louisa*, in great Confusion, "pardon this seem-
 " ing Disrespect. I was thinking"—
 Here she paus'd. "What, my Dear,
 " could so greatly engross your
 " Thoughts?" said Mrs. *Selwin*, very affectionately. "Discover them to
 " me—to your Friend—to one
 " that loves you with the greatest
 " Sincerity—who wishes to see you
 " happy ;

"happy; and will endeavour, by
 "every Means in her Power, to make
 "you so." "Oh! Madam," answer'd
Louisa, "you are too good!—
 "'Tis your Bounty that distresses
 "me——For I have no Parents——
 "no Relations——to make a Re-
 "turn."

"My Friendship, amiable *Louisa*,"
 said Mrs. *Selwin*, "is entirely disinte-
 "rested——I neither want, or would
 "accept of a Return. But that you
 "may have no Uneasiness from ima-
 "ginary Evils, I will reveal a Secret;
 "which, I hope, will restore you to a
 "State of Tranquility. Your Parents
 "are alive and happy, and so are many
 "of your Relations. They are all
 "Persons of Fortune; and, what is
 "still more valuable, are universally
 "esteem'd. They have seen you of-
 "ten——they love you——love you
 "with

“ with the sincerest Affection——And
 “ will one Day claim you as the Dar-
 “ ling of their Hearts, and embrace
 “ you with parental Tendernefs.”

Louisa remain'd motionlefs, while
 Mrs. *Selwin* gave her this pleasing In-
 formation. The Joy ſhe receiv'd from
 it, was greater than her tender Frame,
 at that Time, was able to bear——
 She fainted; but in a ſhort Time re-
 cover'd, by proper Means being uſed.
 The ſoothing Behaviour of that Lady
 gave great Relief to her Mind; and,
 when ſhe became capable of reflecting
 on what ſhe had heard, aſk'd if ſhe
 could be ſo happy as to ſee her ho-
 nour'd Parents, that ſhe might crave
 their Bleſſings?

“ Be aſſur'd, my dear *Louisa*,” ſaid
 Mrs. *Selwin*, “ that I have nothing
 “ more at Heart, than to make you
 “ happy. The Time will ſhortly
 “ come,

“ come, when your worthy Parents
 “ will take you under their Protec-
 “ tion. You may place the greatest
 “ Confidence in what I say——But let
 “ this remain a Secret——for a pre-
 “ mature Discovery may be attended
 “ with bad Consequences, both to
 “ them and you.”

Louisa render'd many and unfeign'd
 Thanks to Mrs. *Selwin*, for these kind
 Tokens of her Love——and promis'd
 a punctual Obedience to all her Com-
 mands. When she was so far reco-
 ver'd as to be able to walk, the good
 Lady took her by the Hand with an
 expressive Tenderness, and led her into
 the Garden. A few Turns there, and
 the Consolation she receiv'd from that
 sincere Friend, greatly contributed to
 her Health and Peace.

While they were in the Garden, Mr.
Eggleston came to pay Mr. *Harcourt*
 a Visit,

a Visit, and to enquire after the Welfare of him and his Family. Being inform'd Mrs. *Selwin* and *Louisa* were there, he went to pay his Respects to them. They were retir'd to an Alcove; but, seeing him approach, rose from their Seat, and went to meet him.

The Ladies receiv'd him with great Good-nature; and he assur'd them, it gave him great Pleasure, in being so happy as to find them in Health. Mr. and Mrs. *Harcourt*, *Charles*, and *Amelia* soon enter'd the Garden, and the Conversation turn'd on their late Journey. Mrs. *Selwin* propos'd an Airing after Dinner, which was perfectly agreeable to all the Company.

During Dinner, Mrs. *Harcourt* said,
 “ We have not seen poor Widow
 “ *Jones* for a considerable Time, sup-
 “ pose we take a Ride that Way, and
 “ see

"see if she is well." This being agreed on, and the Coach ready, the four Ladies went into it, and the three Gentlemen mounted their Horses. They rode first to Farmer *Morrison's*, to enquire after his Health, and to hear how the Widow went on with her Dairy. The Farmer was not at Home, but his Wife begg'd they would alight, and stay Tea.

They thank'd her, for her kind Invitation; but said they intended to drink Tea with Mrs. *Jones*, and ask'd concerning her Health and Welfare.

"Why Ladies," reply'd Mrs. *Morrison*, "I believe she is well, and I

"am sure she is in a very thriving

"Way. Her eldest Son is lately

"married to a Farmer's Daughter

"who has given him Three Hundre

"Pounds, and put him into a prett

"Farm. The Widow, and her othe

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"Children,

“Children, are gone to live with him;
 “and they all seem industrious, and
 “to live comfortably together.”

This Account of the Widow and her Family, gave the Company great Satisfaction; and they desir'd to know, how far it was to the Farm? “It is
 “about a Mile from hence Ladies,” answer'd Mrs. *Morrison*; “but as
 “there may be some Difficulty in finding it, one of my Men shall take a
 “Horse, and shew you the nearest
 “Way.” They thank'd Mrs. *Morrison*, accepted her Offer, and wish'd her and her Family Health and Happiness.

When they came within Sight of the Farm, they gave Mrs. *Morrison*'s Servant something for his Trouble, and dismiss'd him. They rode into the Yard, and a good-looking young Man came out of the Barn, and received

ceiv'd them with great Respect. The Widow, hearing a Carriage, ran to the Door; and, seeing her worthy Benefactors, burst into Tears of Joy, and entreated them to walk in and take some Refreshment, saying her Son would take Care of the Horses.

Though their coming was entirely unexpected, the Company found every Thing in the House extremely neat. The Parlour was decently furnish'd—The Cloth soon laid, and some good Salt Beef, Bread, Butter and Cheese, set upon it—and the Farmer brought Ale and Cyder. The Gentlemen took a Relish; and, when the Cloth was remov'd, Mrs. *Harcourt* desir'd the Widow, her Son, and his Wife would be seated. Mrs. *Jones*, after some Apologies, sat down; but the Farmer and his Wife begg'd they might be excus'd, as the one had Business with-

out Doors, and the other within. The Son went to see the Horses were taken Care of, and his Wife to prepare for Tea.

“I hope,” said Mrs. *Harcourt*, addressing herself to the Widow, “you enjoy your Health, and that you are happy in your present Situation. Your Son and his Wife seem industrious, and are a smart Couple——but is their Behaviour to you kind and respectful?” “My honour’d Lady,” reply’d Mrs. *Jones*, rising from her Seat, and curtsying, “I have scarce known a Day’s Illness, since the Death of my Husband, Thanks to the Almighty for it——and am as happy as Heart could wish. By the Bounty of that good Gentleman,” curtsying to *Charles*, “and his worthy Friends, I have been enabled to support my Family. My
“Children

“ Children are all dutiful and indus-
 “ trious——One Boy I lost last Year—
 “ But never had Woman a better Son
 “ than my eldest, with whom I now
 “ live, and who is in Possession of this
 “ Farm. He is bless’d with an affec-
 “ tionate and virtuous Wife, and her
 “ Father loves him as well as though
 “ he was his own Child.

“ I have punctually receiv’d your
 “ yearly Gift from Farmer *Morrison*,
 “ to Cloath and pay for the Schooling
 “ of my Children, and have put it to
 “ the Use for which it was kindly in-
 “ tended; and we will, as we are in
 “ Duty bound, pray for our generous
 “ Benefactors as long as we live.

“ As, by your charitable Assistance,
 “ we were plac’d above Want, and
 “ were put into a Way to get our Liv-
 “ ing, the Dutifulness and Industry of
 “ my eldest Son was taken Notice of

“ by Farmer *Moore*, our Neighbour.
 “ He often came to our Habitation,
 “ and sometimes took him to his
 “ House. At length he gave him
 “ his Daughter, who is an only
 “ Child ; and, on the Wedding-Day,
 “ made him a Present of Three Hun-
 “ dred Pounds. He has since taken
 “ this Farm for us, which is thought
 “ to be a good one ; and we live as
 “ happy as we can wish, and far be-
 “ yond our Expectation.

“ I have now, worthy Ladies and
 “ Gentlemen, but one Favour to beg ;
 “ which, I hope, will give no Of-
 “ fence——It is at the Request of
 “ my Son and his Wife. As, by
 “ your Bounty, we are raised from
 “ Want to Plenty——we entreat you
 “ to stop your liberal Hands, lest
 “ the having too much should do us
 “ more Harm than Good. What we
 “ get

“ get by Industry, we shall know the
 “ Value of ; and if we should have
 “ any Thing to spare, there are
 “ enough to receive it. But let us
 “ not plead Poverty, when we don’t
 “ feel it ; nor offer to take that Gift,
 “ which may relieve some worthy Ob-
 “ jects, labouring under the same——
 “ or perhaps greater Calamities——
 “ than ever we suffered, when we
 “ had nothing but Misery to attract
 “ your Notice, and dispose your good
 “ and charitable Hearts to deliver us
 “ from it.”

The Company greatly admir’d the
 Widow’s Sensibility——They told
 her, they were so far from being of-
 fended, that they highly commended
 her ; that her Sentiments would do
 Honour to those in a more exalted
 Station ; and that it gave them great
 Pleasure, to think they had been in-

strumental in doing them so much Good.

The Ladies insisted that the Widow, her Son, and his Wife, should drink Tea with them; which, after some modest Excuses, they did. The young Woman behaved with great Decency; and the Farmer express'd his Sense of, and return'd Thanks for, the many Obligations himself and Family were under——telling his Wife, that those were the worthy Gentlemen and Ladies that had delivered them all from Want and Misery.

At their Departure they offered the Widow Twenty Guineas, as their last Present; but the good Woman, her Son and his Wife, begg'd they might refuse the Acceptance of it, as they had quite enough to carry on their Business, and it might deprive
some

some worthy Objects of a Blessing, who were in real Distress.

They return'd Home, highly satisfied with their Visit. They were pleas'd with the noble Sentiments and honest Principles of the Widow, and her Son and Daughter. They were happy in reflecting, that they had been Instruments, in the Hand of Providence, in raising a deserving Family from Poverty to Plenty. Their generous Hearts rejoic'd, that they were bless'd with the Power to do so much Good ; and they prais'd the gracious Giver of every good Gift, who had enabled them to do it.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

A little Journey. Louisa is taken ill, and conceals her Passion for Mr. Eggleston. Physician's Penetration. Another Instance of Mrs. Selwin's Prudence.

THE next Tour made by Mr. Harcourt and his Friends, was through *Warwickshire*; but *Louisa* being taken ill, when they had travell'd little more than a Week, they return'd Home sooner than they intended. A Physician was sent for, who was intimately acquainted with Mr. Harcourt, and us'd to attend that Gentleman and his Family. He had practic'd Physick for several Years, and was esteem'd very Eminent in his Profession.

The

The Doctor examin'd his Patient with great Attention and Tenderneſs, and was fearful ſhe was going into a Decline. He wrote a Preſcription for her, but the Medicine had not the deſir'd Effect. He wrote ſeveral others, but her Diſorder rather increas'd ; which greatly alarm'd her Friends, for ſhe was the Beloved of all their Hearts. They entreated him to uſe his utmoſt Skill to reſtore her—and he promis'd nothing, on his Part, ſhould be wanting.

That he might have a perfect Knowledge of her Diſtemper, he ſat ſometimes two or three Hours in her Company. He order'd all the young Gentlemen that came to enquire after her Health, as ſeveral had made their Addreſſes to her, to be admitted into her Chamber, provided he happen'd to be there at the Time of their Enquiry.

quity. Though her Friends could not account for this, which they look'd upon rather as a Whim of the Doctor's, yet they comply'd with it——But from this alone he discover'd the real Cause of her Illness.

It was some Days before he was certain of the Discovery, for he try'd the Experiment several Times. He carefully observ'd the Countenances of the Visitors and his Patient; and he found that *Louisa* was always greatly affected, whenever Mr. *Eggleson* came to see her——and that he likewise appear'd much confus'd and disorder'd, on being inform'd that she grew rather worse.

From this Discovery, the Doctor had great Hopes of Success. He then order'd her not to be disturb'd, and that none but her Friends should be admitted to her Chamber.

He

He desir'd to speak to Mrs. *Selwin* in private——And he told that Lady, Love was the Cause of *Louisa's* Illness ; and that he had great Reason to hope he should soon restore her, as the Person belov'd had an equal Passion for her.

“ Dear Doctor,” said Mrs. *Selwin*,
 “ how did you get this Information
 “ from them ? ” “ Madam,” reply'd
 the Doctor, “ I have never ask'd
 “ either of them one Syllable about
 “ it.” “ Then, Sir,” said the Lady,
 “ how is it possible you should be ac-
 “ quainted with their Sentiments ? ”
 “ Why, Madam,” reply'd he, “ when
 “ I found my Prescriptions were not
 “ attended with their usual Success,
 “ and that her Disorder was Proof
 “ against the Power of Medicine ; I
 “ began to suspect, that the Lady
 “ might entertain a secret Passion for
 “ one

“ one of those young Gentlemen, who
 “ frequently visit at Mr. *Harcourt's*,
 “ as I knew several had paid their
 “ Addresses to her. In order to know
 “ whether my Suspicion was well
 “ grounded, I desir'd that all the
 “ young Gentlemen who came to en-
 “ quire after her Health, might be
 “ admitted into her Chamber, pro-
 “ vided I was there.

“ From the Symptoms of my Pa-
 “ tient, and the Countenances of her
 “ Visitors, I am certain she is in
 “ Love ; and that the Person she
 “ loves, has an equal Passion for her.
 “ Mr. *Eggleston*, Madam, is the be-
 “ loved Object, and *Louisa* is the
 “ Wish of his Heart. I will now
 “ leave the conducting this Affair to
 “ your Prudence, because the Lady
 “ and Gentleman will be more inge-
 “ nuous with you ; but, if you value
 “ the

“ the Lady’s Life, consent to their
 “ Union, or it will not be in my
 “ Power to restore her to Health.”

Mrs. *Selwin* admir’d the Doctor’s Penetration——and assur’d him, she could have no Objection to so advantageous a Match. When he was gone, she acquainted Mrs. *Harcourt* and *Amelia* with what had pass’d; who began to be of the Physician’s Opinion, in regard to *Louisa*, but were doubtful of Mr. *Eggleston*’s Passion for her. They recollected, that soon after that Gentleman told them that he had receiv’d Letters from *Jamaica*, which inform’d him of the Death of his Uncle, who had left him the Bulk of his Fortune, and that he must shortly go there to settle his Affairs, *Louisa* grew ill; and they knew that her Disorder had rather increas’d ever since, perhaps being apprehensive, after

ter he left *England*, that she should see him no more.

It was agreed that Mrs. *Selwin* should act, as she saw Occasion. She went to *Louisa's* Chamber, who she found weak and low-spirited; and Mrs. *Goodman* left it, on a Hint given by that Lady, who privately desir'd no Person might come to interrupt them.

When they were by themselves, Mrs. *Selwin* embrac'd *Louisa* with great Affection, and said, "I am come, my
" Dear, to sit awhile with you——and
" to try if it is in my Power to con-
" tribute to your Health and Happi-
" nefs." "Dear Madam," reply'd
Louisa, "you are all Goodness, and
" your Company always affords me
" Consolation."

"It is the Wish of my Heart, ami-
" able *Louisa*," said Mrs. *Selwin*,
"to do you Good——I have observ'd,
" for

“ for some Time before your Illness,
 “ that you grew pensive and melan-
 “ choly, and seem’d rather to chuse
 “ Retirement, than even the Com-
 “ pany of your Friends. These are
 “ the common Symptoms of those in
 “ Love, when they keep the Secret
 “ lock’d up within their own Bosoms ;
 “ and they seldom find Relief, ’till
 “ they have disclos’d it to some sin-
 “ cere Friend. You will find in me,
 “ my Dear, all the Friendship—all
 “ the Affection—that your Heart
 “ can wish. Tell me the Object of
 “ your Passion, and you shall have the
 “ free Consent of all your Friends to
 “ make you happy——You shall have
 “ a Fortune sufficient to make him
 “ so. Name but the Person, and we
 “ will find a Way to restore your Mind
 “ to Peace and Tranquility.”

Louisa blush'd, and was going to speak — but hesitated. “ I will spare your Confusion, my charming Girl,” said Mrs. *Selwin*; “ only be ingenuous, and I will try if I can be so fortunate as to make the Discovery. I will mention the Names of some young Gentlemen, who sometimes Visit here on your Account. Is it Mr. *Smith*? — Mr. *Watson*? — Mr. *Morgan*? — Mr. *Sbergold*? — Mr. *Eggleston*?”

At mentioning the last Gentleman's Name, *Louisa* blush'd, held down her Head, and was greatly confus'd. To give Relief to her Embarrassment, Mrs. *Selwin* very affectionately took her by the Hand, and said, “ I see, my dearest *Louisa*, Mr. *Eggleston* is the happy Man——He is indeed a very deserving Gentleman, and one
“ that

“ that is really worthy of your Love.
“ I am certain that your Choice will
“ meet with the Approbation of all
“ your Friends, and that your Union
“ with him will give them infinite
“ Pleasure.”

“ But, my dearly-beloved and much-
“ honour’d Lady,” reply’d *Louisa*,
“ what Hopes can I entertain of an
“ Union with Mr. *Eggleston*?—One
“ whose Parents are unknown, and
“ whose Fortune entirely depends on
“ the Benevolence of her worthy and
“ indulgent Friends.”

“ I have, my Dear,” said Mrs. *Selwin*, “ assur’d you, in a former Conversation, that your Parents were
“ Persons of Merit and Fortune; and
“ that they would one Day, and perhaps very shortly, receive you into
“ their Arms, with the most endearing

“Tenderness. Rely on my Friend-
 “ship——on my Love. I will inte-
 “rest myself in this Affair, and will
 “take Care that nothing shall hurt
 “your Delicacy. Banish every uneasy
 “Thought—Be chearful—be happy—
 “And, I make no Doubt, but every
 “Thing will succeed according to our
 “Wish.”

C H A P. XX.

*Mr. Eggleston's Generosity. He ac-
 quaints Mrs. Selwin with his Passion
 for Louisa. That young Lady reco-
 vers. Her Sensibility.*

THE Tenderness and endearing
 Behaviour of Mrs. *Selwin* and
 her Friends, restor'd *Louisa* to her for-
 mer Tranquility——and the Prescrip-
 tions

tions of her Physician had their desir'd Effect. As she acquir'd Strength, they frequently gave her an Airing, and her beloved Mr. *Eggleston* sometimes accompany'd them. At length she recover'd both her Health and Complexion, which gave that Gentleman great Pleasure.

One Day, when they were return'd from taking an Airing, he saw Mrs. *Selwin* walking alone in Mr. *Harcourt's* Garden. As he wish'd for such an Opportunity, he went immediately to her, and desir'd a few Minutes private Conversation.

When they were seated, Mr. *Eggleston* said, very respectfully, " You will be kind enough, Madam, to pardon the Liberty I have taken, as the Time for my going to Jamaica draws very near; and to

F 3

" keep

“ keep these Papers,” delivering a
 Parcel to Mrs. *Selwin*, “ in your Pos-
 “ session. They contain my Will,
 “ and some Particulars relating to my
 “ Estate ; which, as the Seas are dan-
 “ gerous, and Life uncertain, I thought
 “ proper to commit to your Care.
 “ There is likewise a Letter to the
 “ amiable *Louisa*——to whom, if I
 “ die, I have left something that may
 “ be worth her Acceptance. If I live
 “ to return, and the Heart of that
 “ adorable young Lady should not
 “ be prepossess’d in Favour of some
 “ happier Man, I will beg your Per-
 “ mission to make my Addresses to
 “ her ; for I solemnly declare, if I
 “ should not be so fortunate as to
 “ gain her Love, that I never will
 “ marry any other Lady, as I am
 “ certain

“ certain no other can make me
“ happy.”

“ This is a Species of Generosity,
“ Sir,” reply’d Mrs. *Selwin*, “ that I
“ should scarce have expected, even
“ from Mr. *Eggleston*; and I will en-
“ deavour to return the Obligation,
“ in the best Manner I can. I will be as
“ free as you have been generous——
“ And I do therefore assure you, that
“ there is not a Gentleman on Earth
“ so highly esteem’d by *Louisa*, as
“ yourself. You may depend upon
“ having my Consent, and the Appro-
“ bation of all her Friends——and
“ we will make her Fortune as ample
“ as you can wish.”

“ My dear Madam,” said Mr. *Eg-
gleston*, “ I desire no Fortune——
“ *Louisa* is a sufficient Fortune of her-
“ self. The Man that shall be pos-

“ fess’d of such a Treasure, will be
 “ bless’d indeed! — Please to accept,
 “ from the happiest of Men, all the
 “ Thanks that a grateful Heart can
 “ give, and to present my best Re-
 “ spects to the amiable *Louisa*. May
 “ Health, Peace and Plenty, be found
 “ in all your Dwellings; and may
 “ you all increase in Happiness, as
 “ you increase in Years.” Mrs. *Sel-
 win* render’d proper Acknowledge-
 ments, for his good Wishes; and
 Mr. *Eggleston*, after a short Stay, took
 an affectionate Leave of that Lady
 and her Friends.

In the Evening Mrs. *Selwin* desir’d
 Mrs. *Harcourt*, *Amelia* and *Louisa*,
 would come to her Chamber. She
 congratulated *Louisa* on the Conquest
 she had made, and related what had
 pass’d between Mr. *Eggleston* and her-
 self

self in the Garden. The young Lady was in a pleasing Confusion——But Words are wanting to express her Surprize, when she had receiv'd and read that Gentleman's Letter. It contain'd a most affectionate Declaration of his Love——And inform'd her, that he should sail for *Jamaica* in a few Days, in order to take Possession of what was left him by his Uncle; and that, as soon as he had settled his Affairs there, he should return to *England*, and would make her an Offer of his Person and Fortune. He added, that as there was no Certainty of Life, he had made his Will, which he had deposited in the Hands of Mrs. *Schwin*, by which he had left her Something, as a Token of his sincere Affection.

As

As the Will was not seal'd up, Mrs. *Selwin* cast her Eyes over it ; where, to her Astonishment, she found he had left her the Bulk of his Fortune. " Amazing Generosity !" said that Lady ; " he has left you Something indeed ! It is the Whole he possesses, except a few Legacies ; and, lest you should be wrong'd of any Part of it, he has made Mr. *Harcourt*, Mr. *Bartlett* and Mr. *Harrington*, his Executors." " Oh ! may he live to enjoy it all !" reply'd *Louisa* ; " and may the Almighty protect and bless him, whithersoever he goes. This is too much ! I can never deserve so excellent a Man !"

On Mrs. *Harcourt* and *Amelia's* leaving the Chamber, Mrs. *Selwin* embrac'd *Louisa*, and said, " I assur'd
— you,

" you, my Dear, if it lay in my
 " Power, I would make you happy.
 " There is a pleasing Prospect before
 " us, and I hope nothing will happen
 " to damp our Joy. Mr. *Eggleston* is
 " a Man of Honour, and will per-
 " form all he has promis'd ; and your
 " Union with him, who is deserving
 " of your Love, will give Pleasure to
 " your Friends, and is the Wish of
 " their Hearts."

" Oh ! Madam !" reply'd *Louisa*,
 " how can I thank you as I ought !
 " My Heart overflows with Grati-
 " tude, for your Goodness—but I
 " want Words to express its Feel-
 " ings !" Then, falling on her Knees,
 she said, " May Heaven reward you,
 " with its choicest Blessings—And
 " may I, weak Instrument as I am, be
 " enabled to contribute something to
 " your

“ your Happiness, by my Behavi-
 “ our——my Duty——my Love.”

Mrs. *Selwin*, charm'd with her Sensibility, took her by the Hand, and rais'd her from that humble Posture. She led the young Lady to her Chamber, embrac'd her with great Affection, and wish'd her a good Night.

C H A P. XXI.

Mr. Eggleston declares his Passion to Louisa, and is happy in her Love. The Lovers part, and Mr. Eggleston embarks for Jamaica.

THERE was a happy Alteration in the Mind and Countenance of Mr. *Eggleston*, since Mrs. *Selwin* had assur'd him of *Louisa's* Esteem.
 His

His Doubts and Fears began to vanish, and the pleasing Prospect of an exalted Felicity brighten'd to his View.

While he was making the necessary Preparations for his Voyage, Mr. *Harcourt* and *Charles* came to pay him a Visit. He receiv'd them with that noble and generous Freedom, which is expressive of the Sincerity of the Heart. "We are come, my dear "Friend," said Mr. *Harcourt*, smiling, "to see how you spend your "Time ; and, if you have no particular Engagement, to take you "Home with us."

"My good Sir," reply'd Mr. *Eggleston*, "I am always happy in the "Company of such worthy Friends, "and I could wish to pass the Remainder of my Life in such an
"agreeable

“ agreeable Society. I shall have set-
 “ tled all my Affairs this Evening——
 “ Tomorrow, and the following Day,
 “ I will give myself the Pleasure to
 “ spend with you——and, on the
 “ third Day, I must set out for
 “ *Gravesend*, in order to embark for
 “ *Jamaica*, as the Ship will soon be
 “ ready to sail.”

As the Gentlemen express'd some
 Concern at his leaving them so soon—
 He told them, that his Return would
 be the earlier ; and that, he hop'd,
 he should never be under the Necess-
 sity of leaving *England* any more.
 He insisted on their taking some Re-
 freshment——and entertain'd them
 with a chearful Politeness, during
 their Stay. At taking Leave, they
 reminded him of his Promise ; which
 he assur'd them, if he had Life and
 Health,

Health, he would punctually perform.

The next Morning Mr. *Eggleston* went to Mr. *Harcourt's*, where he was receiv'd with the sincerest Friendship. He seem'd more than commonly chearful, which render'd his Company extremely agreeable. *Louisa* beheld him with a feeling Heart; but she suppress'd her Fears, and behav'd with great Affability.

Mr. *Bartlett*, having been inform'd of the Time of Mr. *Eggleston's* Departure, came to invite that Gentleman and his Friends to Dinner. They went, and were elegantly entertain'd. The Remainder of the Day was spent in Conversation; and, at parting, Mr. *Bartlett*, taking Mr. *Harcourt* by the Hand, said, " My dear Friend, we
" will come to your House Tomor-
" row;

“ row ; where we will take Leave of
 “ Mr. *Eggleston*, and heartily wish him
 “ a good Voyage.”

Mr. *Eggleston* rose betimes the next Morning, and took a Walk in the Garden. He had not been long there, when he saw Mrs. *Selwin* and *Louisa* approach towards him. He paid them a polite Compliment on their early Rising, which Mrs. *Selwin* return'd with great Good-Nature—— and said, “ Sir, I embrace this Opportunity to inform you, that your unbounded Generosity to this young Lady, really distresses her ; and she wishes you to bestow, what you kindly intended for her, on some of your Relations, who may be more deserving, and have certainly a better Right to it.”

“ Since

“ Since the Death of my Uncle,
 “ Madam,” reply’d Mr *Eggleston*,
 “ there are none of my Father’s Fa-
 “ mily living, but myself. My Mo-
 “ ther’s surviving Relations are very
 “ few, and have plentiful Fortunes.
 “ As I have an undoubted Right to
 “ dispose of my Estate as I think pro-
 “ per, I know no Person so deserving
 “ as the amiable *Louisa* ; who, were
 “ the *Indies* at my Disposal, as justly
 “ as my Estate, should possess them
 “ all—and, could I be so happy as
 “ to obtain her Love, should doat on
 “ the Exchange.”

“ Your generous and polite Beha-
 “ viour, Sir,” said Mrs. *Selwin*, “ and
 “ your speedy Departure, lay me un-
 “ der the Necessity of treating you
 “ with the greatest Sincerity. I will
 “ freely acknowledge that *Louisa* loves
 Vol. II. G “ you.

“ you. I have already promis’d you
 “ my Consent to your Union, and
 “ assur’d you that it will be agree-
 “ able to her Friends. Her Fortune
 “ we will settle hereafter. Obtain
 “ the Consent of the Beloved of our
 “ Hearts, and your safe Return will
 “ make us all happy.”

Mrs. *Selwin* then desir’d Mr. *Eg-*
gleston would excuse her for a few Mi-
 nutes, and went into the House.
 That Gentleman approach’d the
 young Lady with great Politeness and
 Respect——and said, “ And does the
 “ adorable *Louisa* really condescend
 “ to bless me with her Love! Oh!
 “ speak the dear, the enchanting
 “ Words!——Confirm it with those
 “ lovely Lips, and make me bless’d.
 “ indeed!”

“ Though

" Though it may seem, Sir," re-
 ply'd *Louisa*, " rather inconsistent with
 " Female Delicacy to make so frank
 " a Confession——yet the Wish of
 " my Friends, your Merit, Genero-
 " sity and speedy Departure, have
 " prevail'd on me to own——that
 " you——and you only——have Pos-
 " session of my Heart: And, that I
 " may contribute all that lies in my
 " Power to your Happiness, I sin-
 " cerely promise never to marry any
 " other Person, whilst you live."

" Dearest and loveliest of the fairest
 " Sex," said Mr. *Eggleson*, " what
 " Raptures do I now feel! What
 " supreme Felicity do I now enjoy,
 " by your obliging Condescension!
 " Oh! may I live——live to admire
 " such Excellence——and to express
 " my Gratitude, by all the endear-
 " ing

“ ing Tenderness of Love ! Content
 “ and Peace will now attend me, in
 “ my Travels ; and, at my Return,
 “ Oh ! what a blissful Prospect opens
 “ to my View !”

Louisa then gave her Lover the strongest Assurance of an everlasting Affection, which he heard with a heart-felt Joy. Seeing Mrs. *Selwin* enter the Garden, they met her with great Respect. “ I see,” said that Lady, smiling, “ that your Minds
 “ are at Ease, and it gives me great
 “ Pleasure. I have brought you, my
 “ dear Sir, this, as a Token of my
 “ Esteem,” presenting him a Diamond Ring, of great Value ; “ which
 “ I intreat you to wear, for my Sake.” He very politely receiv’d the Present, took one of the same Kind from his Finger, and put the other on ; then, turning to *Louisa*, he said, “ It will
 “ greatly

“greatly oblige me, if the Beloved of my Heart will wear this, for the Sake of her *Eggleston*.” The young Lady blush’d, and look’d at Mrs. *Selwin*; who, giving her a Smile of Approbation, she took it with a becoming Grace, and put it on her Finger.

On *Amelia*’s entering the Garden, the Conversation turn’d on Mr. *Eggleston*’s Voyage; and, when they had walk’d awhile, a Servant inform’d them Breakfast was ready.

The Company in the Parlour were all chearful——and Mr. *Harcourt* said, he would have one happy Day, before Mr. *Eggleston* left them. He had invited several of his Friends to Dinner, that they might bid him Farewel. Soon after Breakfast the Ladies retir’d to Dress, and the Gentlemen took an Airing. While they were dressing,

Mrs. *Selwin* inform'd her Sister and *Amelia* of what had pass'd that Morning in the Garden, between Mr. *Eggleston* and *Louisa*, which they heard with great Satisfaction.

All that were invited came; the Table was elegantly and plentifully cover'd, and the Conversation sprightly and entertaining. *Louisa's* Behaviour was remarkably polite, which gave her Lover and Friends infinite Pleasure. Mr. *Harcourt* gave the first Toast; which was, *A prosperous Voyage and safe Return to Mr. Eggleston*—and it was the sincere Wish of all the Company.

The Ladies retir'd for some Time; when they return'd, Mrs. *Harcourt* went to the Harpsichord, and the Gentlemen took different Instruments. As they perform'd several celebrated
Pieces

Pieces of Musick, the Ladies went to it alternately, and their Performances were greatly admir'd. *Amelia*, at the private Request of *Louisa*, sung the following Lines, accompany'd by the Band:

- “ Pow’rful Guardians of all Nature,
 “ Oh! preserve the Man we love!
 “ Keep, from Danger, the dear Creature;
 “ Virtue, sure, has Charms to move.”

As this was design’d as a Compliment to Mr. *Eggleston*, it met with universal Approbation, and was perform’d twice; which distinguishing Mark of the Affection of his Friends, drew from that Gentleman many polite Acknowledgements. *Henrietta* and *Louisa* follow’d the Example of *Amelia*, and sung several favourite

Airs, which very justly met with the highest Applause.

In order to vary the Entertainments of the Day, and to enjoy it with the same Chearfulness, they had a Ball in the Evening. The Ladies and Gentlemen danc'd Minuets for some Time, and *Louisa* had her beloved Partner. Their Movements were inexpressibly enchanting, and their Attitudes had a peculiar Grace and Dignity.

After Supper, the Company join'd in Country Dances; and the Day was concluded with that social Happiness, which only sincere Friendship and a hearty Welcome are capable to give.

Many good Wishes, for Health and Safety, did Mr. *Eggleston* receive from the Company, at parting—for which he gave them his unfeigned Thanks.

As

As he propos'd to set out very early the next Morning, and *Charles* and *Frederick* had promis'd to see him embark, he took an affectionate Leave of Mr. and Mrs. *Harcourt* and Mrs. *Selwin*. When he went to salute *Louisa*, though she had suppress'd her Tears, and behav'd with a becoming Fortitude during the Day, yet he approach'd her with so much Tenderness and Respect, that the pearly Drops fell from her lovely Eyes. He saw them, and was greatly affected. He sooth'd her, with the most endearing Assurances of everlasting Love—and cheer'd her, with the Hopes of a happy Meeting, never to part again. She pray'd for his Health and Safety, wish'd him every Happiness this World could give, and retir'd with Mrs. *Selwin*

win to give Way to a Weakness, she was no longer able to conceal.

That the beloved *Louisa* might not be distress'd by another Interview, Mr. *Eggleston* rose the next Morning at Four o'Clock; and about Five, that Gentleman, *Charles*, and *Frederick*, set out for *London*, attended by their Servants. They arriv'd there in the Afternoon, and lay at Mrs. *Selwin's* House in *Bond-Street*; for her Servants had receiv'd Notice of their coming, and had prepar'd for their Reception.

By Noon, the following Day, they got to *Gravesend*, and din'd aboard the *Lovely Nancy*, Capt. *Smith*, Commander. After Dinner, and drinking a few Glasses of Punch with the Captain, these sincere Friends parted with mutual Regret. *Charles* and *Frederick*

rick lay that Night at Mrs. Selwin's, and the next Evening arriv'd safe at their Houses in Oxfordshire.

C H A P. XXII.

Mr. Harcourt's Illness, and Death. Grief of the Family. A Stranger visits Mrs. Selwin. An Instance of that Lady's Goodness of Heart.

IT gave great Satisfaction to Mr. Eggleston's Friends, to hear that Charles and Frederick left him in good Health. Louisa was rather melancholy for some Days; but, by the Prudence and Tenderness of Mrs. Selwin, she was restor'd to her usual Serenity.

As Louisa took great Delight in Reading, Mrs. Selwin furnish'd her with

with a select Collection of the Works of our best Authors. She would frequently hear that young Lady read; and, when any Passage appear'd obscure, would render it intelligible. By this Means she ripen'd her Judgment, and improv'd her Morals—Needle-work, Painting in Miniature and Musick, were also the Amusements of her leisure Hours.

As *Charles's* three Sons had been some Years at a Boarding-School, he thought it was now Time to send *Ambrose*, his eldest, to the University. He consulted his Master, who assur'd him he was qualified: He therefore plac'd him at *Oxford*, that he might frequently have an Opportunity to see him; and allow'd him, every Quarter, a Sum sufficient to keep genteel Company.

The

The Tranquility of Mr. *Harcourt's* Family was now interrupted, by a very mournful Event. That Gentleman was seiz'd with a Cold, which at first appear'd of no bad Consequence; but, at length, terminated in a violent Fever. The Doctor added Friendship to his Skill, and attended him with the greatest Affiduity; but notwithstanding all their Tenderness and Care, and the Assistance of two other Physicians, after an Illness of nine Days, he died.

Mrs. *Harcourt's* Grief, on this Occasion, is not to be express'd—and indeed the whole Family sincerely lamented the Loss of him. He was buried in a Manner suitable to his Rank in Life. Many of his Friends, in real Sorrow, attended the Solemnity; and several poor People, who had
often

often partook of his Bounty, wept over his Grave.

Mr. *Harcourt* bequeathed several Legacies to his Relations and Friends, but left the Bulk of his Fortune to his Lady. She remain'd for some Time inconsolable; at length Reason and Religion came to her Aid, and she became more resign'd. She likewise receiv'd much Consolation from the prudent Advice and endearing Behaviour of Mrs. *Selwin*——for never did Sisters love each other with greater Sincerity.

Sometime after the Death of her Brother, Mrs. *Selwin* took her Sister and *Louisa* to *London*; thinking that a Change of Place, and innocent Amusements, might relieve their Melancholy, and divert their Minds. This, in a little Time, had the desir'd Effect,

(III)

Effect, and they began to enjoy their former Tranquility.

One Day, while they were in *London*, a Woman came to Mrs. *Selwin's*, and desir'd to speak with her. Being rather meanly dress'd, though her Behaviour was genteel, the Servant ask'd, if he could not deliver her Message? She said, her Business was of some Consequence, and begg'd she might be permitted to see his Lady.

She was shewn into a Back-Parlour, and Mrs. *Selwin* went to her. "My Name, Madam," said the Stranger, "is *Jolly*; and I am come, at the Request of a dying Husband, to confess a Crime he has been guilty of, and to implore your Forgiveness." "I know no Person of that Name," reply'd Mrs. *Selwin*——

"nor

“ nor am I acquainted with any In-
 “ jury he has done me.”

“ Lord *F.*” answer’d the Stranger,
 “ by the Offer of a large Reward,
 “ prevail’d on my Husband, though
 “ he knew his Lordship’s Design was
 “ dishonourable, to seize the young
 “ Lady that is under your Protection,
 “ who was then at a Gentleman’s
 “ House in *Oxfordshire*; and to con-
 “ duct her to a Place at some Distance,
 “ where his Lordship waited to receive
 “ her. Mr. *Jolly*, seeing the young
 “ Lady one Evening in the Garden,
 “ pretended to fall from his Horse,
 “ and to be in a Fit. One of his Ac-
 “ complices begg’d the Lady’s Assist-
 “ ance; and, by that Artifice, got
 “ her into the Road, stopp’d her
 “ Mouth with a Handkerchief, and
 “ thrust her into a Post-Chaise. He
 “ says,

" says, they had certainly carried her
 " off, had not her Shrieks alarm'd
 " some Persons who happen'd to be
 " near; who instantly came to her
 " Assistance, and sav'd her from in-
 " evitable Ruin."

" By your Account, Mrs. Jolly,"
 said Mrs. Selwin, " Lord F. was
 " the Projector of this Conspiracy;
 " pray what is become of his Lord-
 " ship?" " Finding, Madam," reply'd
 Mrs. Jolly, " his base Design was
 " frustrated, he went to *France*, and
 " from *France* to *Italy*; where, living
 " pretty freely, he was seiz'd with a
 " Fever, and died." " I hope," said
 Mrs. Selwin, " he had Time to re-
 " pent, and I freely forgive him.—
 " The Story you have related I be-
 " lieve to be true, in every Circum-
 " stance, but one; and that is, your
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“ Husband caus’d one of my Brother’s
 “ Servants to be seiz’d, by Mistake,
 “ instead of the young Lady his Lord-
 “ ship wanted.”

Mrs. *Selwin* then kindly enquir’d,
 whether her Husband was in real
 Want? “ His Necessity, Madam,”
 said Mrs. *Jolly*, “ is now very great.
 “ He has spent his own Estate and my
 “ Fortune among Rakes and lewd
 “ Women, and is now dying in a
 “ Jail.” The good Lady was greatly
 affected to hear that; and though
 his Crime deserv’d Punishment, in-
 stead of a Benefaction, she took out
 her Purse, and gave her ten Guineas;
 saying, “ Dispose of these in the best
 “ Manner you can——Earnestly ex-
 “ hort your Husband to repent——
 “ and assure him of my Forgiveness,
 “ as

“ as that may contribute something to
 “ his Peace.”

Mrs. *Jolly* bestow'd many Thanks
 and Blessings on her kind Benefac-
 tress, and departed in Tears; and
 Mrs. *Selwin's* Heart rejoic'd, to think
 she had it in her Power to return Good
 for Evil. For, as *Shakespeare* says;

“ The Quality of Mercy is not strain'd;
 “ It drops, as does the gentle Dew from Heav'n,
 “ Upon the Place beneath. It is twice blest,
 “ It blesses him that gives, and him that takes:
 “ 'Tis mightiest in the Mightiest. It becomes
 “ The crowned Monarch, better than his
 Crown;
 “ And earthly Power does then seem most di-
 vine,
 “ When Mercy seasons Justice.”

C H A P. XXIII.

Mr. Eggleston's Arrival. Joyful Meeting to the Lovers.

MRS. *Selwin* related to her Sister all that Mrs. *Jolly* had told her—and they observ'd, that their Suspicion of Lord *F.* was not unjust. They reflected on the common Fate of Villainy—and lamented the dreadful Situation of that unhappy Wretch, who was employ'd by his Lordship to seize *Louisa*.

The Time of Mourning for Mr. *Harcourt* being expir'd, and Mr. *Eggleston* shortly expected Home, Mrs. *Selwin* consulted with her Sister concerning their Return to *Oxfordshire*. Finding it would be agreeable to that
Lady.

Lady, and knowing that *Louisa* was anxious to be there, in a few Days they set out for, and arriv'd at Mrs. *Harcourt's*.

The Ladies soon receiv'd the Compliments and good Wishes of their worthy Friends. They visited, and received their Visits with Chearfulness, and again enjoy'd the Benefits and Blessings of Society. The Poor rejoic'd, when they heard of their Arrival; and, from their Bounty, often found a comfortable Relief.

As the Ladies took great Delight in the Garden, when the Weather was fine, they pass'd a considerable Part of their Time there. One Day, while they were very attentively looking at some beautiful Flowers, they heard the Sound of some Feet moving hastily towards them; when, turning

H 3 round,

round, to their agreeable Surprise, they beheld *Charles* and——*Mt. Eggleston*.

He saluted them with that tender and affectionate Freedom, which expresses both the Gentleman and the Friend——and they receiv'd him with all the Demonstrations of Joy and Love. After some Conversation, *Mrs. Selwin* took an Opportunity to acquaint him of her Brother's Death. He was greatly affected, to hear of their Loss; but conceal'd his Inquietude, as much as possible, from *Mrs. Harcourt* and Family, lest it might occasion a Renewal of their Grief.

Mr. Bartlett, *Mr. Harrington*, and their Families, came to congratulate *Mr. Eggleston*, on his safe Arrival in *England*; who return'd them sincere Thanks, for those kind Tokens of their Friend-

Friendship. After Dinner, they pass'd some Hours in agreeable Conversation; and at parting, express'd the Pleasure it gave them, to see Mr. Eggleston return'd in Health and Safety.

In the Evening, when the Family and Mr. Eggleston were retir'd to the Parlour, Mrs. Selwin ask'd that Gentleman, if his Voyage had prov'd agreeable? and whether he had settled his Affairs in *Jamaica* to his Satisfaction? "At *Gravesend*, Madam," said Mr. Eggleston, "I went aboard the "*Lovely Nancy*, Capt. Smith, Commander. She had not sail'd far, "before I was taken, as most young "Sailors are, extremely Sick. My "Disorder was violent, but its Duration was short. As living aboard "was entirely a new Scene to me, it "appear'd at first irksome and disa-

“greeable; but I was better reconcil’d to it, after a few Days sailing.

“We were ten Weeks and two Days in our Passage, and nothing very remarkable happen’d during our Voyage. We anchor’d at *Port-Royal*, and I went ashore and took Possession of my late Uncle’s Effects. I was very respectfully treated by the Merchants who were left in Trust, and they dispos’d of every Thing to the best Advantage; and, indeed, I receiv’d great Civility from many of the Inhabitants.

“I was entirely satisfy’d with the Conduct of my Trustees; who sold, what was left me by Will, for upwards of Thirty-five Thousand Pounds. I made them genteel Presents, settled my Affairs as soon as possible, and went aboard the *Ex-pedition*,

“ *pedition*, Capt. *Morgan*, Comman-
 “ der, accompany’d by several Friends.
 “ We had a good Passage, as the
 “ Captain inform’d me, being only
 “ nine Weeks and three Days, from
 “ our sailing from *Port-Royal* to our
 “ casting Anchor at *Gravesend*.

“ I enjoy’d my Health very well,
 “ while I remain’d at *Jamaica*; but,
 “ as I was chiefly engag’d in Business
 “ and Visits, my Knowledge of that
 “ Island must be very imperfect. If
 “ your Curiosity should excite you to
 “ be acquainted with its present State,
 “ there are Travellers who have gi-
 “ ven very accurate Descriptions of it,
 “ and from whose Writings you may
 “ receive entire Satisfaction.

“ I have left several Things aboard,
 “ some of which I design for Pre-
 “ sents—and given the Captain a Di-
 “ rection

" rection where to send them to me.
 " I made all the Speed I could into
 " *Oxfordshire*, being anxious to see
 " my worthy Friends, and to enjoy
 " the Pleasure of their Company.—
 " And now, my dear *Louisa*," ad-
 dressing himself to the young Lady,
 " we meet, I hope, to part no more."

Mr. *Eggleston* rose early the next
 Morning, and soon after was favour'd
 with the Company of Mrs. *Selwin* and
Louisa. He entreated that Lady to
 complete his Happiness, by naming
 the Day when the Hands of two
 Lovers should be join'd, whose Hearts
 were already united by the strongest
 Bands. She assur'd him, that she sin-
 cerely wish'd to promote their Feli-
 city; and that after Breakfast, in the
 Presence of her Friends, the Time
 should

should be fix'd for the Celebration of their Marriage.

By a general Consent, that Day Fortnight was appointed for the Wedding. Mrs. *Selwin* desir'd they might be married in *London*——at the same Church, and by the same Gentleman, if living, that join'd the Hand of *Charles* to his beloved *Amelia's*. This was agreed to——the Lovers were extremely happy, and they pass'd their Time in innocent Amusements, or in the enjoying the agreeable Conversation of their amiable Friends.

Mrs. *Selwin*, having settled some Particulars with Mrs. *Harcourt* and *Amelia* concerning the Wedding, set out for *London*, accompany'd by Mr. *Eggleston* and *Louisa*, in order to make Preparations for it.

While

While the Cloaths, &c. were getting ready, Mr. *Eggleston* went to Capt. *Morgan*, and desir'd he would send his Effects to Mrs. *Selwin's*, in *Bond-Street*. They were sent, as desir'd, and were chiefly intended for Presents to his Friends.

The Day before that which was fix'd for the Nuptials of this amiable Couple, Mrs. *Harcourt*, *Charles*, *Amelia*, their eldest Son, Mr. *Bartlett*, Mr. *Harrington*, and their Families, arriv'd at Mrs. *Selwin's*. This was a joyful Meeting, especially to our Lovers, as it presented to them the pleasing Prospect of shortly arriving at the Summit of their Happiness.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXIV.

A happy Discovery. A Wedding. Another Instance of Mr. Eggleston's Generosity.

AFTER Tea, Mrs. Selwin, addressing herself to the Company, said, "My dear Friends, I have something of Consequence to impart to *Louisa*; and entreat your Permission to retire with that young Lady for a short Time." They bow'd their Assent. Then, taking her by the Hand, they paid their Obeisance, and retir'd to another Apartment.

When Mrs. Selwin had shut the Door, she led *Louisa* to a Seat. She
sat

fat down by her ; and, with a benign Countenance, said, “ I have more
 “ than once inform’d you, my Dear,
 “ that your Parents were living ; that
 “ they were Persons of Merit and
 “ Fortune ; and that the Time would
 “ come, when they would receive you
 “ to their Arms with the most en-
 “ dearing Tenderness——I have now
 “ the Pleasure to assure you, that you
 “ are the Darling of their Hearts ;
 “ and that you will, this Evening, be
 “ bless’d with the Embraces of the
 “ best of Parents.”

“ Oh ! Madam !” reply’d *Louisa*,
 “ these are joyful Tydings indeed !——
 “ Let me thus,” falling on her Knees,
 and embracing Mrs. *Selwin*, “ pour
 “ out the Overflowings of a grateful
 “ Heart in Thanks, for here they are
 “ justly due.” The good Lady rais’d
 her

her from that humble Posture ; and, after many Assurances of an everlasting Affection, led her to the Company, in order to make the happy Discovery.

When they enter'd the Dining-Room, all the Company rose from their Seats, and Mrs. *Selwin* led *Louisa* to *Charles* and *Amelia*, who stood ready to embrace her. "Receive, my dear "Mr. and Mrs. *Bartlett*," said she, "your amiable Daughter——Behold, "my beloved *Louisa*, in these my "worthy Relations, the best of Parents, to whose Protection and Care "I now resign you." Then, letting go her Hand, *Louisa* fell on her Knees, and implor'd their Blessings. They bless'd, rais'd, and embrac'd her, with true parental Love——Mrs. *Harcourt* did the same——And her
Brother

Brother came and saluted her, and said, he was happy in finding so lovely a Sister.

All this was a Mystery to Mr. *Eggleston*, which he knew not how to unravel. Mrs. *Selwin*, seeing his Embarrassment, address'd herself to him, and said, " I am sensible, Sir, of your
" Perplexity, and will deliver you
" from it as soon as I can.

" You must know then, that the
" Merit, and the many kind Offices
" the younger Mr. *Bartlett* had done
" our Family, laid my late Brother
" under an Obligation to reward him,
" by giving him his Daughter, and
" all Parties consented to their Union;
" but, before they were married, he
" unjustly entertain'd a Resentment
" against the young Gentleman's Father,

“ ther, on Account of an Election for
 “ Members of Parliament.

“ He carried it so far, that there
 “ were little Hopes of a Reconcilia-
 “ tion. This greatly distress’d the
 “ young People, and gave their
 “ Friends Abundance of Uneasiness.
 “ My Sister and I consulted together,
 “ and we found out a Way to make
 “ them happy. I took *Amelia* to Lon-
 “ don with me ; and the younger Mr.
 “ *Bartlett* was inform’d by her, that
 “ his Visits at my House would not
 “ be disagreeable. In short, they
 “ were married—and the younger
 “ Mr. *Harrington*, *Henrietta* and my-
 “ self, were at the Wedding.

“ Some Time after, Mr. *Harcourt*’s
 “ House was in Flames, through the
 “ Carelessness of a Servant ; and, in
 “ all Probability, all the Family

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“ would

“ would have perish’d, had they not
 “ happily been preserv’d by *Louisa’s*
 “ Father, who sav’d my Brother and
 “ Sister, at the Hazard of his own
 “ Life.

“ This laudable Action restor’d the
 “ two Families to their former Friend-
 “ ship. Mr. *Harcourt* again consent-
 “ ed to their Union; but, as they
 “ were married before, we were
 “ oblig’d to make use of a Stratagem.
 “ He happen’d, at that Time, to
 “ be afflicted with the Gout—and
 “ I took that Opportunity to tell
 “ him, that *Amelia* requested the
 “ Wedding might be as private as
 “ possible; and, if he had no par-
 “ ticular Objection, would be glad
 “ to have the Ceremony perform’d
 “ at *London*. He very readily con-
 “ sented, and all those who were at
 “ the

“ the real Wedding went to my House
 “ in *Bond-Street*.

“ We went to * * * * Church ;
 “ and so contriv'd it, that even our
 “ own Servants thought they were
 “ then married. We pass'd the Re-
 “ mainder of the Day at *Richmond*,
 “ and every Thing had the Appear-
 “ ance of a Wedding. We return'd
 “ to *Oxfordshire*, where we receiv'd
 “ the Compliments of our Friends
 “ and Acquaintance. Some Time af-
 “ ter, fearing *Amelia's* Condition
 “ should render us liable to Suspi-
 “ cion, I took her again to *London*,
 “ and there she was safely deliver'd of
 “ the lovely *Louisa*, to the inexpress-
 “ sible Joy of her Husband and my-
 “ self.

“ I provided a Wet-Nurse for the
 “ dear Infant, in whom I could con-

" fide. We went, as soon as we con-
 " veniently could, to my Brother's,
 " and presented her there by the
 " Name of *Louisa Darlington*. I told
 " him, it was the Daughter of a
 " dear Friend, whom I highly ef-
 " teem'd; that she had indeed taken
 " a precipitate Step, in marrying
 " without the Consent of her Fa-
 " ther, and therefore I had taken it
 " under my Protection. My Bro-
 " ther approv'd my Conduct, and our
 " Stratagem succeeded according to
 " our Wish."

Mr. *Eggleston* express'd great Sur-
 prize and Joy, on this Occasion—
 At length, recollecting himself, and
 bowing to Mrs. *Selwin*, he said,
 " This Discovery, Madam, is an
 " Addition to my Happiness; as it
 " contributes to the Felicity of the
 " Beloved

“ Beloved of my Heart, and unites
 “ Kindred to Friendship.”

“ It always gives me Pleasure,
 “ Sir,” reply’d Mrs. *Selwin*, “ to see
 “ my Friends happy; and it shall be
 “ my constant Study to make them
 “ so, if it lies in my Power. We
 “ have now settled every Thing, but
 “ *Louisa*’s Fortune; which, with your
 “ Permission, we will leave ’till To-
 “ morrow.” Mr. *Eggleston* bow’d his
 Assent. The Company now became
 extremely chearful, and it was late
 when they retir’d to their several
 Apartments.

The happy Day came, in which
 this amiable Pair were to be united
 in the filken Bands of *Hymen*. *Louisa*
 appear’d inexpressibly charming. She
 was dress’d in White Sattin, orna-
 mented with Flowers of Silver; and,

as a Compliment to Mr. Eggleston, she wore the Diamond Necklace, Earrings and Ring, which he had presented her, as Tokens of his Love. He was dress'd in a Suit of White Cloth, embroider'd with Silver. The Morning was fine, and the Sun never shone on a lovelier or happier Couple.

—These “ were a matchless Pair ;
 “ With equal Virtue form'd, and equal Grace ;
 “ The same, distinguish'd by their Sex alone :
 “ Hers the mild Lustre of the blooming Morn,
 “ And his the Radiance of the risen Day.”

THOMSON.

The other Ladies and Gentlemen were dress'd suitable to the joyful Occasion. They went in three Coaches to * * * * Church ; and the

the worthy Divine being still living, who married *Charles* and *Amelia*, at Mrs. *Selwin's* Request, perform'd the Ceremony——after which, she gave him an Invitation to Dinner.

When they were return'd to *Bond-Street*, had been blest'd by their Parents, and the usual Compliments were over, Mrs. *Selwin* presented Mr. *Eggleston* with Notes to the Amount of Twenty Thousand Pounds. He very politely desir'd he might be excus'd the Acceptance——but, being earnestly entreated by that Lady, and her Nephew and Niece, he receiv'd them with great Respect.

He soon cast his Eyes over the Notes, and saw their Value. He took to the Amount of Ten Thousand Pounds, and very affectionately presented them to *Louisa's* Mamma;

then, taking the other Ten Thousand, he saluted *Louisa* with great Tenderness, and said, "These, thou dearly-beloved of many worthy Hearts, I commit to your Care. They are entirely at your Disposal—for in your Hands, I am certain, they will be the Instruments of Good." The Ladies admir'd his Generosity, but declin'd his obliging Offer for some Time——But he told them, smiling, that to meet with a Refusal, on that happy Day, would give a Damp to his Joy.

The good Minister, according to Invitation, came to Dinner, and congratulated the Company on this joyful Occasion. The Best of every Thing in Season was provided, and the Table plentifully and elegantly cover'd. Cheerfulness, Friendship and Love, diffus'd

diffus'd themselves around it, and the Graces sat triumphant on the Countenance of *Louisa*.

After a very agreeable Conversation, they had a Concert of Musick. *Henrietta*, in Compliment to Mr. *Eggleston* and *Louisa*, sung the following Air, which she accompany'd with the Harpsichord ;

“ Happy, happy, happy Pair;

“ None but the GOOD deserve the FAIR.”

She sung it with such a feeling Sensibility, and her Choice was so suitable to the Occasion, that she receiv'd many Compliments from the Company ; and, at their particular Request, perform'd it a second Time, accompany'd with the other Instruments. *Amelia* and *Louisa* sung several favourite
Airs ;

Airs; and the Concert being ended, the worthy Minister took Leave, wishing the amiable Pair, and all their Friends, much Happiness. Minuets and Country-Dances concluded the Amusements of the Day, and never was one spent in the Enjoyment of more social Felicity.

C H A P. XXV.

The Conclusion.

THE next Morning Mr. *Eggleston* and *Louisa* receiv'd the Compliments of their Friends, which they return'd with great Affection and Politeness. After Breakfast, Mrs. *Selwin* propos'd an Airing; which being quite agreeable to the Company, they set out for, and din'd at *Richmond*.
In

In the Afternoon, they took a Walk in the Gardens; and, in the Evening, arriv'd at Mrs. *Selwin's*, happy in the Company and Conversation of each other.

After spending some Time in *London* with mutual Satisfaction, and having seen the Publick Places of Entertainment, and many of the Curiosities in and about it, they return'd to *Oxfordshire*.

On their Arrival at Mrs. *Harcourt's*, they receiv'd the Compliments of all their Friends, and of many of the neighbouring Gentry, which they return'd with great Sincerity and Politeness.

That Mr. *Eggleston*, and his beloved *Louisa*, might have frequent Opportunities of enjoying the Company and Conversation of their Relations and Friends,

Friends, he Lett his House ; and purchas'd another, which stood at a small Distance from Mr. *Harrington's*.

Mrs. *Selwin* continu'd for some Time in *Oxfordshire* ; and, on her Return to *London*, was accompany'd by her Sister, Mr. *Eggleston* and *Louisa*. They often visited each other——and they, and their Families, enjoy'd all the Felicity that Affluence, Virtue, Friendship and Love, are capable to bestow.

Mr. *Eggleston* was happy in the Possession of his amiable *Louisa*, and all her Wishes center'd in him. Frequently did they relieve the Distresses of the Unfortunate, and took a Pleasure in doing Good. They liv'd universally belov'd, and sweeten'd the chequer'd Lot of Life by mutual Endearments ;

dearments ; being bless'd with——
what Mr. *Thomson* judiciously esteems
the Height of human Felicity,

- “ An elegant Sufficiency, Content,
- “ Retirement, rural Quiet, Friendship, Books,
- “ Progressive Virtue, and approving Heav'n.
- “ These are the matchless Joys of Virtuous Love ;
- “ And thus their Moments fly.”

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